

From: Kaupp, Ann [KAUPPA@si.edu]
Sent: Saturday, November 17, 2007 2:48 PM
To: Darton, Terry
Subject: Mirant hearing on November 19
To: Mr. Terry Darton
Air Permit Manager
Virginia Department of Environmental Quality (VDEQ) <thdarton@deq.virginia.gov>

RE: November 19 VDEQ Hearing

Dear Mr. Darton:

I am a resident of North Old Town Alexandria and my home is next door to the Mirant generating plant.

To put it quite simply, why is an outdated coal-fired plant still operating in a highly populated urban area within VERY close proximity to townhouses (priced at \$700,000 and above), condos, and apartment buildings? Why has this plant not been required to meet current emissions standards that new plants must meet? We also are in a non-containment area and this plant is a major contributor to greenhouse gases.

This plant is also a nuisance. The train tracks are only a few yards from the closest homes and the loud train whistles blow from early morning to late at night. Coal dust can be found on our cars, porches, window sills, and INSIDE our homes. Many residents, including myself, have experienced close calls with trains crossing at Slaters Lane. No prior warning is given and the angle in which the track crosses the road, the train engine is not easily visible to a car driver.

Other states have said they've had enough and have sued coal-fired plants for their pollution. Why does the State of Virginia choose not to follow suite and demand cleaner air for their residents? PM2.5 should also be considered in granting any new permits. Medical doctors have emphasized time and again that these invisible particles that lodge in our lungs are detrimental to our respiratory systems. The plant's mercury emissions should also be considered and mercury's impact on the Potomac River and thus the Chesapeake Bay. Also what can you tell us about Trona that is now being used to cut I believe SO2. I have learned of no studies regarding this and its impact on our health and air. Are we being used as guinea pigs for the Trona experiment?

Please show some respect and compassion for your fellow Virginia residents. Quality of life, not the dollar, should be what we strive for. The City of Alexandria is doing the responsible thing and asking for a more comprehensive permit. I ask that you accept our City's critique of this permit.

Sincerely,

Ann Kaupp
501 Slaters Lane #516
Alexandria, VA 22314